

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

GAC-01 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 IO-12 NIC-01 RSR-01 /111 W
----- 026512

R 101603 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4961

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06723

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, GE

SUBJECT: GDR DISSATISFACTION WITH FRENCH NOMENCLATURE
PRACTICES IN EAST BERLIN

REF: A) BONN5323; B) BERLIN 489; C) STATE 63536

SUMMARY: AT TRIPARTITE MEETING ON MAY 8, FRENCH REP
(PLAISANT) REPORTED THAT THE GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD
DELAYED SENDING A DIPLOMATIC ID CARD TO A NEW MEMBER
OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE NOTE
WHICH HAD BEEN USED TO REQUEST THE CARD HAD USED THE FOR
MULATION " PRES DE LA RDA." PLAISANT SAID THE FRENCH WERE
AFRAID THAT THEY WERE BEING SINGLED OUT BY THE GDR BE-
CAUSE THEY HAD FIRST USED THE OBJECTIONABLE FORMULATION
AND THAT THE FRENCH HOPED THE UK AND US WOULD ALSO
MAKE WRITTEN USE OF THE TERM " TO THE GDR" TO INDICATE
THAT A TRIPARTITE POSITION EXISTED.
END SUMMARY

1. PALISANT SAID THE NOTE REQUESTING AN ID CARD FOR THE
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NEWLY ARRIVED CULTURAL OFFICER HAD BEEN HEADED "AMBASSADE DEFRANCE, PRES DE LA RDA." WHEN THE CARD HAD NOT BEEN DELIVERED AFTER ONE WEEK, THE EMBASSY APPROACHED THE PROTOCOL DIVISION OF THE GDR FOREIGN OFFICE AND WAS TOLD THAT IF THE FRENCH COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE DELAY, THEY SHOULD REMEMBER THE "JESSEL-OESER CONVERSATION OF MARCH 15" (REF B). FRENCH CHARGE JESSEL THEN TOOK THE MATTER PERSONALLY TO THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, WHO TOLD HIM THAT ISSUANCE OF THE ID CARD WAS "STILL PENDING," BECAUSE THE WORDING OF THE REQUESTING NOTE WAS "NOT ENTIRELY CORRECT," SINCE IT USED THE FORMULATION "PRES DE LA RDA." THE PROTOCOL OFFICIAL SAID HE COULD SAY NOTHING MORE ON THE SUBJECT AND THAT IF JESSEL REQUIRED MORE EXPLANATION, HE SHOULD SPEAK WITH SOMEONE IN THE WESTERN EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT.

2. JESSEL DISCUSSED THE QUESTION WITH THE FRENCH DESK OFFICER, HERR SCHULZE, ON MAY 7. ACCORDING TO JESSEL'S REPORT, SCHULZE EXPLAINED "IN AN EXTREMELY MODERATE TONE" THAT USE OF THE FORMULATION IN QUESTION WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE IT VIOLATED GDR PRACTICES AND ALSO WAS NOT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC PRACTICES. NEVERTHELESS, SCHULZE SAID AN EXCEPTION MIGHT BE MADE IN THIS CASE IF THE FRENCH WOULD TAKE NOTE OF THE GDR REQUEST. HE ALSO NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE FOR THE FUTURE FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO DESCRIBE HIMSELF AS BEING AMBASSADOR "PRES DE LA RDA," BUT DESCRIPTIONS OF THE EMBASSY ITSELF WOULD HAVE TO SAY "IN THE GDR."

3. ACCORDING THE PLAISANT, JESSEL REPLIED THAT IF SCHULZE WOULD READ THE FRENCH VERSION OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION, HE WOULD THAT EMBASSIES THEMSELVES WERE ALSO REFERRED TO WITH THE TERM "PRES DE LA." HE THEN ASKED SCHULZE TO QUOTE THE EXACT PASSAGE IN THE VIENNA CONVENTION WHICH WAS BEING VIOLATED WITH THIS FORMULATION. SCHULZE THEN SAID THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY, SINCE THE MATTER WAS "REALLY A POLITICAL PROBLEM." JESSEL TOLD SCHULZE THAT THERE WAS NO PROSPECT OF A CHANGE IN FRENCH POLICY. PLAISANT SAID HE WAS NOT SURE WHETHER THIS CONVERSATION HAD RESULTED IN ISSUANCE OF THE ID CARD OR NOT.

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4. PLAISANT SAID THE FRENCH VIEW WAS THAT THE GDR WAS SINGLING THEM OUT AS THE OBJECT OF PRESSURE IN AN ATTEMPT TO HAVE THE FRENCH EMBASSY BE THE FIRST TO ABANDON THE QUESTIONABLE FORMULATION. HE SAID THAT SINCE THE UK EMBASSY WAS ALSO NOW OPEN, PARIS HAD DECIDED TO APPROACH THE FCO IN LONDON AND ASK THAT A NEW STAMP BE

SENT TO THE EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN WHICH INCLUDED THE FORMULATION " TO THE GDR." THE UK REP (BROOMFIELD) CONFIRMED THAT THE STAMPS PRESENTLY IN USE REFERRED ONLY TO THE " BRITISH EMBASSY, BERLIN," BUT THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD PROBABLY AGREE TO USING AN ALTERNATE

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R 101603 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
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USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 06723

VERSION WHICH READ " BRITISH EMBASSY TO THE GDR, BERLIN."
PLAISANT SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ASK ALSO THAT THE US CONSIDER USING SUCH A STAMP WHEN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY OPENED. THE FRENCH BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD BE EASIER TO MAINTAIN THEIR POSITION IF IT COULD BE DEMONSTRATED TO THE GDR THAT THERE WAS TRIPARTITE SOLIDARITY ON THIS POINT.

5. THE US REP RECALLED THAT WE INTENDED TO REFER PUBLICALLY TO OUR EMBASSY AS BEING " TO THE GDR" BUT THAT IN WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS, WE WOULD SAY ONLY " US EMBASSY BERLIN." (REF C). HE PROMISED TO REPORT THE FRENCH REQUEST AND ASK FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.

6. EMBASSY COMMENT: WITH THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE GDR IS PLACING ON EXPRESSION OF ITS POSITION ON THIS POINT, WE WONDER IF THE FACT THAT NO USE WILL BE MADE OF THE

FORMULATION " TO THE GDR" IN WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS FROM
OUR EMBASSY, WHICH WILL BE OPENED MUCH LATER THAN THE
FRENCH AND UK ESTABLISHMENTS, MIGHT NOT BE INTERPRETED
BY THE EAST GERMANS AS A CONCESSION ON OUR PART.

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SINCE THE GDR HAS CHOSEN TO MAKE THE FORMULATION A POINT
OF PRINCIPLE, WE AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR
THE WESTERN POSITION IF WE COULD FIND AN OCCASION ALSO
TO USE THE TERM IN WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS.

HILLENBRAND

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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